

THE OMEN

The Omen

Volume 7, Number 8
March 29, 1996

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“Excuse me? (What?) Can I have your attention? There’s just a few things that I’ve got to mention.”
-Slick Rick

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Policy Box!

The Omen accepts from any member of the Hampshire community. We will not edit anything you write, as long as you are willing to be responsible for what you say. Libel, which we personally find amusing and entertaining for countless hours is just not able to be printed in this forum.

Submissions, which includes just about anything involving the Hampshire community in some way (news, opinions, artwork, etc.), are due on Saturday nights at 8:00 to the editor of the section in which you wish to appear, or to Ben Sanders (E-307, box 710), or Jonathan Land (E-311, box 527). We prefer submissions on disk (IBM or HIGH DENSITY Macintosh), although hard copy (on paper, dumbass) is okay as well. Label your stuff well and it will make it back to you with no problem.

So give us your news, commentary, short fiction, comics, satire, poetry, art, bulletins, questions, and anything else you can think of, and your beloved community rag will dish it back 700 times. What better way to be heard?



Steak -N- Onions And More

Chef's Best Dried Beef Ribeye Steak

Ingredients: Beef, Hydrolyzed Soy Protein, Salt, Flavorings, Corn Starch, Brown Sugar, Sodium Erythorbate, Sodium Nitrate.

Company: Heartland Originals U.S.A.

Color: Reddish-Brown

Purchased at: Big Y

Weird texture. It's kind of smooth. Also kind of flavorless. Kind of gross. A little subtle soy sauce-esque background flavor. I just bit into a huge chunk of fat. There's nothing in the world I hate more than that. Now I'm looking at it, and that's a baaaad move. I've seen a mass of big white, fatty lumps, and I no longer want to eat this.

Reser's Teriyaki Beef Jerky

Ingredients: Beef, Brown Sugar, Water, Salt, Soy Sauce (Water, Wheat, Soybeans, Sodium Benzoate [less than 1/10 of 1% as a preservative], Brewing Starter [aspergillus sojae]), Natural Smoke Flavoring, Spices, Garlic Powder, Onion Powder, Sodium Nitrate.

Company: Reser's Fine Foods

Color: Reddish-Brown

Purchased at: Big Y

Ahh... a jerky. I like jerky, a lot more than all those beef sticks. Sure they aren't as instantly gratifying, but I always find them to be more savory. Maybe it's because they

are so damn tough to eat. Well, that's why it's jerky. For something claiming to be teriyaki- flavored, it's fairly bland. I previously tried the regular-flavored version of this brand, and it was painfully tasteless. If I wasn't so pre-occupied with fighting to bite chunks off of it I probably would have chucked it by now. What a friggin' waste of money. My teeth are starting to hurt. This sucks. Don't buy this.

I can't stop eating it though. I'm totally fucked. Please let the phone ring or something. I've only eaten half of this. Could someone please just grab this out of my mouth and get rid



of it. I'm eating, and typing, and I can't stop either. This is turning into some weird stream-of-consciousness writing, but I'm barely conscious, so I'm writing in circles. My teeth are really hurting now. Someone save me... please. For the love of God, SOMEONE HELP ME!!! Must... pull... myself... away... Don't... have... the... moral... fiber... or... willpower... I... can... do... it... no... yes... no... yes... yes. It's all over... for now.

Slow Roasted BBQ

Flavored Cooked Skinless Chicken Breast Wisconsin's Finest.

Ingredients: Chicken Breast, Sugar, Salt, Onion and Garlic Powder, Dextrose, Monosodium Glutamate, Molasses Powder, Flavorings, Hydrolyzed, Vegetable Protein, Chicken Stock, Paprika, Citric Acid, So-

Continued on next page

Jerky Chew

Continued from
previous page

dium Nitrate.
Color: Dirty
Orange.

Manufacturer: Heartland
Originals.

Purchased
at: Big Y

My friend
Lauren got this
for me to review.
She's always
looking out for
me. This was an
extremely flavor-
ful treat, until I bit
into the friggin'

bone 2/3rds of the way down.

Things were going so
well too. Everything got off the
ground nicely, I was pleased,
things were good. I'd even go as
far as to say that I was genuinely
satisfied with the way things
were going. sure they weren't
perfect, but at least I was happy.
And then all of a sudden that
bone came into the picture and,
as it always does when the bone
enters the picture, THINGS
CHANGED. The situation just
wasn't pleasurable after that. I
mean, I've been hurt before, but
having this pop up out of the blue
completely violated my trust. I
could never be with that chick in
the same way again.

**Steak -N- Onions (Kip-
pered)**

Ingredients: Beef, Onions,
Hydrolyzed Soy Protein, Salt,



Sugar,

Flavorings, Onion and
Garlic Powder, Monoso-
dium Glutamate, Brown
Sugar, Dextrose, Sodium
Erythorbate, Partially Hy-
drogenated Soybean Oil,
Cornstarch, Sodium Nitrate.

Color: Shiggity-iggity-
it Brown.

Produced by: Heartland
Originals.

Purchased at: Big Y
Kipperd? Kipperd?
What the hell is Kipperd?
Hello—Is this thing on? The
shit's everywhere!!! Kip-
pered???

Not bad, but I have the
feeling that my breath will stink
forever. This really tastes good.
I'm happy with this product. Life
is good. People are good. Things
are going to be O.K. Did some-
one slip some acid in this stuff?
What the hell, buy it, you'll like
it.

**Wild Bill's Original Jerky
Chew (Hickory Smoked Shred-
ded Beef Jerky)**

Ingredients: Beef, Soy
Sauce, Garlic, Pepper, Red Pep-
per.

Note:
Sprayed with
Potassium
Sorbate to
retard mold
growth.

Color:
Mustard-
Yellow/
Brown.

Pro-



duced by: Wild Bill's Foods, Inc.

Purchased at: Big Y

There are two interesting
things I noticed about this pack-
age. The first is the slogan, "Ya
Don't Need 'TEEFF' To Enjoy
Our 'BEEF'".

This is inherently distur-
bing, especially accompanied by
the drawing of the elderly man
with guns and gums a-blasting.
The second is the phrase "retard
mold growth". Now I could hear
the word "retard" every second
of the day and get a kick out of
it, but used in combination with
"mold growth" is what really irks
me. What's the point of pro-
cessed foods if they can mold
easily? That totally defeats the
purpose.

Anyway... THIS STUFF
RULES. It's like if Gerber's
made beef jerky for toddlers. It's
so good!!! This is the best thing
I've ever eaten in the realm of
processed meats, and that's not
something to be taken lightly. Re-
ally, just get this stuff, IT'S SO
GOOD. IT'S SO FLAVORFUL,
IT'S SO YUMMY, IT'S SO
GOOD!!! It's so good, I

can't think of other
words besides
"good", because my
brain is being
stunted with jerky
goodness. BUY
THIS, BUY THIS,
BUY THIS!!!

**Jonathan Land
Meat Reviewer
The Omen**

Hey Stupid!!!

Casey Nordell wrote a lot
of silliness in his column, more
so than I've seen from him in the
past. This time, however, he was
just plain wrong in the course of
his parade of drivel on smoking
issues in the back room of the
dining commons: "The SAGA
Smoke-in: It was a
pathetic failure, but was it a good
idea?" (The Omen Vol 7, #7,
March 15.)

Casey writes: "No smok-
ing in public establishments" is
what the law says. So there's no
smoking in restaurants in
Amherst. But that's not true. Just
head out to the Hampshire Mall,
and walk into the Ground Round,
and as you walk in, they will
cheerily ask you "Smoking or

no?"

Hey stupid, I realize you've
only been in the area for about
six months, but the Hampshire
Mall is in Hadley.

The rest was vapid and
fairly sparse, but the babble
above was just plain misinforma-
tion. (Who the fuck edits this
stuff, anyway?) On that note, pre-
vious to this issue and the last
one, the Omen was looking bet-
ter than it had since I got here,
and that includes several of
Casey's columns. I would just
suggest doing a little fact check-
ing before spouting forth, par-
ticularly if you're going to call it
"News and Editorial."

Love,

**Dan Gregor (F93)
djgF93@hamp**

Hey Casey! There's More...

To the Editor,

Casey Nordell's inclina-
tion to grace each and every is-
sue of the Omen with his head

Continued on next page

A Bit On Editorial Policy

Two words: editorial
policy.

Many people have
made comments to me about
Casey Nordell's "Saga
Smoke-In" article in this
past issue of The Omen
(Volume 7 Issue 7) which is
laden with a lot of misinforma-
tion. I was repeatedly
asked how I could let that
happen. Here's how:

The Omen has an
open submission policy in

which, what a

contributor contributes will
be printed as such, barring libel-
ous content (and screw-ups in
production with formatting and
placing text and such).

In other words, we'll print
whatever you want as long as it
isn't housing vicious hearsay
about anyone, that being an in-
dividual or group.

It is the responsibility of the
author to do things such as fact
checking and information seek-

ing. Even though it might re-
flect poorly on me as an editor
to allow these types of things
to slip by, that is not my role in
running The Omen. I'm not
here to baby-sit contributors
beyond the point necessary to
solicit their work, and thus al-
low The Omen to exist.

The end.

**Jonathan Land
Managing Editor
The Omen**

Did Someone Say Prostate?

Continued from previous page

placed firmly up his butt is his own business, but one has to wonder if he's getting enough air to his brain.

In his latest self-inflicted wound ("The Saga Smoke-In", *Omen* V7, #7, 3/15), he wrote at some length about the utterly abortive smoke-in at Saga of a week or two ago. The facts that the event completely failed to materialize, accomplished nothing, and was by all accounts a total waste of energy were duly noted.

Then, apparently furthering his efforts to become visually acquainted with his own prostate, Mr. Nordell spent a page and a half trying to rationalize the non-event into something other than a pathetic failure. Cheerily distorting reality and minimizing popular opinion nonconformant his own, he made a series of points so ridiculously off-base that they just begged for some response.

* He claims in paragraphs 11 and 12 that the Ground Round's flaunting of the Amherst ordinance against smoking in public establishments is a worthwhile social (maybe even legal) precedent for Hampshire. Nevermind the fact that the Ground Round, like the rest of the Hampshire Mall and most everything else east of Multi-Sport, is in Hadley.

* He questions whether Saga is a public place in paragraph 12 with the well-known legal litmus test of, "Can anybody just walk into Saga and get a meal?" It's about as difficult as getting a meal at McDonalds, with better, cheaper food (and a waffle bar!), plus a nicer view. Saga probably sees more traffic than Judie's. You bet your vegan cookies it's a public place.

* All on his own, he decides that "public establishments" were targeted by the Amherst ordinance solely because their occupants aren't bright enough to realize that smoke is bad for them, or that they're actually breathing it. (No, really, that's what he said. Paragraph 13. I couldn't believe it either.) Catastrophically backwards on about six levels, he's apparently missed years of public national debate fueled by vocal, angry majorities of "public establishment" inhabitants. These majorities have one common cause; they don't like breathing incinerated monkey droppings and tobacco by-products, and they're willing to go to some lengths to make sure they don't.

I want to make sure he catches that word "majority". If he needs help with the concept, I encourage him to take a look at the margins by which anti-smoking legislation and referendums

get regularly passed in states like California.

* He suggests at the end of paragraph 14 that the legal status of a "public area" can be modified or negated with a well-placed sign containing sentiment to the contrary. At least we don't have to worry about Mr. Nordell becoming a master criminal.

* Midway through paragraph 16 he would have us believe that we are not subject to Amherst law because "Hampshire isn't really a part of Amherst." With the exception of the tobacco barns, he's gone geographically bonkers again. It would certainly be entertaining for him to fill us all in on what, in fact, he thinks we are a part of. Taiwan? Turkey? Toledo? UMass?

* Paragraph 15 introduces us to a completely random red herring in HeMP's annoying and recurrent smoke-ins. Mr. Nordell describes, in what amounts to a daring leap from recorded fact, the tacit (and non-existent) approval of that event from Hampshire College. Why then, he asks, can't we smoke something legal?

Mr. Nordell doesn't seem to understand that, if the powers that be had wanted it, Amherst cops could have been standing

Continued on next page

Had Enough Yet, Hippie?

Continued from previous page

every ten feet across the library lawn that sunny afternoon. Had the HeMP event actually gone off in the face of The Man, the subsequent arrests, detainments, and convictions of lots of gadfly protesters and a number of relatively innocent bystanders could have been guaranteed.

According to info obtained from NORML, federal penalties for possession of any amount of marijuana (until you get beyond an amount that anyone could reasonably consume on their own) will buy you up to a year in the pokey plus a guaranteed \$2500 fine, while Massachusetts will stick you for up to six months and \$500, both assuming first offense. There may be other penalties for involving minors or proximity to the college, and minimum sentencing guidelines (which, last I heard, were still on the books) promise staggeringly unfair sentences for anybody the courts deem had an intent to distribute.

Apparently Mr. Nordell would rather believe that the college was rendered impotent by the will o' the people then give the administration credit for understanding that a militaristic crackdown would be an excessive and inappropriate response to an anemic crowd of clueless kids trying desperately to rebel against their parents. He doesn't

grasp at all the extent to which HeMP's smoke-ins are irrelevant to Amherst public policy—in this case, policy to which fines are an appropriate response.

I also found it odd that nowhere in his extended piece did he address the possibility of actually getting the ordinance changed. If we're being oppressed so, why not make it legal again to smoke where one will, as the original Saga flyer (paragraph 6) proposed? He could become a local hero and get an SS div 1.

Maybe it has something to do with the vast numbers of

people out there who support the ban. Mr. Nordell acknowledges that smoking at Saga would provoke antagonism from "all the bureaucratic tight-wads" and "health-conscious stir-fryers" but conveniently ignores all the "tightly wound reactionaries who don't want to smell like an industrial accident" and the "easily enraged people who like to breathe". I'm one of those people. I know a lot of others. We Hate breathing cigarette smoke, and we like ordinances that make it less likely. We don't care how cold it is outside.

Love,

Nat Irons
ndiF95@hamp

Airport

Friday through Sunday, March 29-31 at
8:00 p.m.

Hampshire College Dance Studio Theater

*Division Three dance concert
by Karinne Keithley*

Reservations may be made by calling x5675 beginning March 10th.

Ticket prices are \$1.00 for students and seniors, and \$3.00 general admission.

Sure, Everyone's A Smoker

Here is a list of things it is wrong to do: It is wrong for a final-semester Div III student to take out her academic aggressions on some stupid first year who doesn't know his ass from his elbow (or, more pertinent to the topic at hand, Hadley from Amherst). It is wrong for said student to make her attack personal, lambasting the aforementioned first-year as a prissy, holier-than-thou guanopate in a Libertarian's clothing (especially when such epithet might well be applied to her). And it is wrong, oh, so wrong, for her to use the public forum she created to vituperate such a scurvy dog for daring to express his opinion, which, after all, is what The Omen is for.

But you know what, fellow smokers, non-smokers, and single self-righteous F-3 Resident? The Omen was born of a vendetta, steeped in petty Hampshire bullshit, survived by the power of spleen...and thus, I feel justified.

Plus, I smoke. And, bearing the somewhat inglorious title of "fifth-year," I've spent a lot more time smoking in SAGA than being restricted from such pleasure. It wasn't a habit hard to break, but one I regret having to dispense with. However, laws are laws, and if I cared that much, I would have staged my own bloody "Smoke-In" in the Amherst Town Hall. Or perhaps

have sent fan-letters, complete with worshipful burn-holes, to the single Northampton selectman who was repeatedly escorted from meetings for lighting a protest stogie at the beginning of every session. Either way, it's obvious I had better things to do; life moves on and dinner moves faster when one's pet fetish is legislated into parking lots and alcoves.

Now, it is interesting to note, that at Hampshire, an institution famous for having less than sensible protests, everyone realized that the channels one would go through to fight the "Smoking Laws" were not to be found at the college. It is doubly interesting to note that those who would have been likely to protest are what in no uncertain terms can be labeled drug-addicts—a species not noted for restraint when it comes to lighting up and feeling cool. So, kudos to the student body for having some common sense...and a big ol' bang on the ear to the ignoramus who flawed our front of commendable restraint.

Yup, that's you, Casey "Satyagraha" Nordell. Oh, sorry, I mean "Some one, (or some people)" who 1) "wanted to smoke at SAGA," and 2) is really enjoying life at college, it's just so darn liberating. I mean, like, dude, you can stage a protest here and not take credit for

it! Listen up, buddy—even Ishvi Aum attached his name to all the down-with-The-Man rhetoric he foisted off on this campus.

Which brings me to my main beef with the fashion show of failure that your little "Smoke-In" unleashed in our community, and the main rule you seem to have ignored. IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE AN ASSHOLE, TAKE CREDIT FOR IT (the by-line at the end of this piece is an excellent example of adherence to this rule). Have the courage of your stupid convictions. Okay, if you're the Unabomber, this might not be the most sensible course of action...but since I doubt you have the technological prowess to comb your hair, let alone blow up the Amherst Town Hall for denying you the right to stub out your cigarette on a plate of Calico Skillet, such an exemption does not apply to you. I sat in SAGA until ten minutes after the appointed hour of your little "protest," and you didn't even flick a lighter to show solidarity with the "organizer" of the protest you profess to be anonymous. You...are a coward.

Once it had become obvious that your misguided sense of justice had steered you on a path to the Dark Side, I wanted to see you pull an Anikin Skywalker. I almost could have respected you if you lit up. But you just sat there, a complete waste of blood,

Continued on the next page.

Can't We All Just Get Along?

Continued from the previous page.

hair, and delusions of grandeur.

Okay. Aside from having no spine, what's wrong with you, Casey? Well, it would appear to be your brain. Your twisted logic—declaring the dorms a public space, and attempting to utilize our ability to smoke therein as a precedent for smoking in SAGA—is a tautology of fallacious cow splat. In other words, you might make a good politician someday, but you would always make an inept lawyer (it has been pointed out to me that this last might not be so insulting).

Smoking in the dorms is allowed by the grace of god,

I was house staff when these cute little laws manifested in town, and my boss explained to me in no uncertain terms that too many violations of Amherst Town law at our little utopia would have us smoking on the balconies. She is a smoker, and read the laws...something that escaped your cunning, politically-motivated eye, it would seem.

By the by, can you even read at all? Like, say, a map? I know it's confusing, little buddy, but even though the "Hampshire Mall" shares a name with us, it is not a part of Hampshire, or even the town of Amherst. It's in Hadley, titwillow, and boy—has business been thriving there

around here. Sure, you can smoke there. You can smoke in my hometown, too. I don't use that as an excuse to piss off SAGA workers.

I won't venture to comment on your analysis of the SAGA letter explaining the situation to the students in the back room. Let's just say, whoever wrote it has better rhetoric than you.

Casey: make the best of the next three years. And don't worry—there's nowhere to go but up.

In smoke.

Stephanie Cole
The Hampshire Omen

Abortion Rights Conference

The 10th Annual "Fight for Abortion Rights and Reproductive Freedom" will be held Friday, March 29-Sunday, March 31 at Hampshire College in Franklin Patterson Hall.

The conference, which is sponsored by the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at Hampshire, is free, but pre-registration is encouraged. Childcare is available with advance registration as are sign language interpreters.

The conference is a way for leaders of the reproductive rights movement to pass the torch to a new generation of feminist activists. A new focus this year will be the development of a national

agenda of young woman's issues.

As always, the conference has attracted a diverse cross-section of the social justice community and hundreds of young, mostly college-age, feminists who will bring conference teachings and techniques back to other campus activists.

Following is a cursory schedule of events. For more information, contact the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program at x5645.

-Fri. March 29, 2:30-5:30 PM---Concurrent "How-To" Training Sessions: campus organizing/grassroots organizing skills training; menstrual extraction; tracking and combating the

right. FPH

-Fri. March 29, 7:30---"Breaking the Silences: An Abortion Speak-Out". Women talk about their abortion experiences, legal and illegal. In addition to pre-arranged speakers, there will be an opportunity for other women to speak-out. Main Lecture Hall.

-Sat., March 30, 9AM-1PM---"Speaking Out for Reproductive Freedom". Reproductive rights issues will be addressed by speakers who are activists in the U.S. and internationally. From 2-3:30 & 4-5:30---Workshops on a variety of reproductive rights and women's health.

The Radical Departure

You may have heard the name RD, or Radical Departure, recently.

What it means right now is that a bunch of people are talking about how Hampshire education works, and could work better. Some of us want to get a living space together, to have a strong community in which to live and to have a forum from which our educations will grow. Others are just going along for the philosophical discussions, which can be pretty fascinating if you like that sort of thing. Still others are hoping RD will serve as a vehicle to improve the way Hampshire serves its students — a resource for working with “the system.”

RD is NOT a closed group. It is an ever-evolving group inviting new insight and participation.

RD is currently working on publicizing its mission. We are reaching out with an invitation for interested individuals to investigate and become involved. We are also seeking community support for our proposal for 4 mods of housing. This includes about 30% entering students, who express interest in living at the center.

RD is NOT limited to those who will live in the allocated space. For some participants, living together is a vital part of this experiment. Others will continue thriving in other parts of Hampshire. Everyone

will benefit from the RD center.

One thing we all agree on is that RD should include many different students and their perspectives. RD is looking for your interest and energy. If you have questions, inspirations and ideas, or just want to hear more, you have several options. Personal contact very important to us — call Rebecca at x4636 or e-mail Chris at ckawecki@hampshire.edu to find out some time to discuss how you personally fit into RD. Watch for signs advertising introductory meetings. You can check out the RD folder on reserve in the library, or contact Chris to join our e-mail list for a while and read nifty discussions.

This short document is only able to give the most general ideas about the Radical Departure. We have many more detailed documents and plans, which we have been working hard on, and which we are very excited to share with you. Please find them on our web-page (<http://hamp.hampshire.edu/html/cs/rd/rd.html>) or in the reserve folder at the library.

Chris Kawecki, Holly Baldwin, Erika Ritter, et al

A Short Philosophy of One of the RD Members

I believe that an essential part of the Hampshire Experiment lies in a criticism of West-

ern Society's “enforcing” tradition. This criticism suggests that particular prerequisites, guided by society, have failed as a method for educating responsible, thoughtful, spiritual citizens. In response, Hampshire offers an alternative. It seeks to balance the students' own experience with the academic tradition by allowing the academic work to grow from the students' experience. I believe in this alternative ultimately and completely. I sense a movement that has tipped the balance too far from students' experience and towards an established body of knowledge and skills.

My feeling is that the Hampshire Experiment is a tremendous success, but that the loss of balance (described in the previous paragraph) has disabled some of Hampshire's success for some individuals. For these individuals, I seek to reinvigorate the spirit of our experiment by re-engaging the question of how to have an education that is relevant to our world view, rather than the views of greater society. My experience has shown us that some individuals acting alone have had difficulty in maintaining the balance within their own educations. For instance, many of us had an incredible idea for a learning project that was not understood by our committees or teachers, and where we were pushed in a way that was inappropriate. I be-

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A Long Look in the Mirror

Section Hate - 24 March, 1996

The Omen: just what the hell is it?

In light of the almost-complete demise of The Phoenix, I thought this was a relevant question. For two years, The Omen and The Phoenix were rivals, as it were - the two news-

papers here on campus. When The Phoenix fell apart, The Omen found itself as *the* weekly publication for the Hampshire College student body. And, even though The Phoenix still comes out every once in a while via the World Wide Web, it can't rightly compete - I'd say that at least a good one-third of the student population on this campus has never surfed the Net. With no hard-copy output, The Phoenix can't hope to reach as many people as The Omen. This makes The Omen, as Jon Land has taken to calling it, Hampshire College's newspaper.

But, is it really? The Omen as newspaper? Many would snort and chuckle derisively at the suggestion - with good reason. The Omen is *not* a newspaper, and I don't think many people have misconceptions about that.

There is little, if any, actual news in any given issue of The Omen. Whereas newspapers devote a small section, usually only one or two pages, to opinion and editorials, The Omen works in reverse. The Omen is almost completely opinion, with maybe a one-page news article every week - if that. Let's break this down, in terms of the consistent writers: Jon Land - his ar-

ticle every week is an editorial; Steph Cole - as News Editor, she tries to put actual news in there, but often ends up writing editorials; Matt Flaming - I have no idea what you'd call his articles, but they're definitely not news; yours truly - Section Hate is the officially sanctioned commentary section; Casey Nordell - staff writer extraordinaire but no news; Amber Cortes - the Music section tries very hard to be news, but slips into commentary a lot; Neil Golden - well, “Milkweed” is obvious, and that Section Treppencrap thing he did a few weeks ago was a funny, if slightly less than subtle, commentary on much of the writing that goes on here at The Omen. As you can see, there's not a whole hell of a lot of news in there. Which is not to say that news isn't getting reported in The Omen... it's just getting filtered through so much bias that even the editors at the *Collegian* would wince.

The Omen is just not your standard newspaper. Not by any stretch of the imagination.

Both Steph Cole and Jon Land, as past and present Managing Editors respectively, have tried their damndest to set up a consistent, functioning News

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The End of RD

Continued from previous page

lieve that a smaller, living-learning community will provide a critical mass that will not only empower the individuals involved but help to spread the vision to the rest of the campus. For instance, I plan to include other RD students on my divisional committees, and will be on theirs.

The Radical Departure is an experiment. Not only is it an experiment in education, but it is also an experiment in community-building. I believe that such experiments are important to Hampshire — I invite you to participate with me.

Chris Kawecki

The Rest of Hate

Continued from previous page
section for The Omen - and have, for the most part, failed. The lack of news in The Omen has been labeled as its most constant drawback by its detractors, and the Managing Editors have attempted to rectify that, time and again, to no avail. Yet The Omen persists, and it is perhaps more popular than it ever has been. For God's sake, why?

Well, I think there's a couple of reasons for this. The first reason is that there is very little going on at this college that would be considered "newsworthy". In order to put out a weekly publication, The Omen has to be commentary-based, and I think most people understand that. The second reason is that I think a lot of people like The Omen the way it is - or at least parts of it. There are many people I have talked to who say "I only read The Omen for your articles" or "I really only like Matt Flaming's 'Thoughts After Midnight'" or "The Omen's only good thing is its covers", etcetera, etcetera.

I've been writing for this publication for the better part of four semesters now, and I enjoy it. I don't think I could write the things I do in another publication . . . and I sure as hell couldn't take my holier-than-thou, "I'm-right-and-everyone-else-is-wrong" attitude anywhere else. And that's fine by me. I have no misconceptions. The Omen is basically the *New York Post* of the Hampshire College journal-

istic scene . . . except we have better covers and the benefit of not being a Rupert Murdoch publication.

So that's it for this week's stroll through Section Hate. You got questions? comments? suggestions? hate mail? Send 'em my way, Jimmy Olsen: box 21 (snail) or jobF92@hamp.hampshire.edu (electronic). Or, well, you could

always write for The Omen. Don't you want to be part of the tradition?

And so, till next we meet in this corner full of shadows, remember, kiddies: keep your feet on the ground, but keep reaching for the stars.

All the thppth that's fit to thppth.

Josh Brassard
Section Hate Editor

"You okay?"

"I am so far from okay."

...Yes, however, at least
you're graduating.

Have a hand in creating a graduation
that won't be painful to attend.

VOTE

Student Speaker: John Haggerty

Co-Moderators: Scott Tundermann

Stephanie Cole

We'll go medieval on your ass.